

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



February 29, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.88-10

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN REFUGEE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

The Department has been notified by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that on December 22, 1987, Congress passed the Continuing Resolution (CR) for FFY 1988 which was approved by the President as Public Law 100-202.

The CR imposes a reduction on the funds available for ORR grants to States for cash and medical assistance and related State administrative costs for assistance to refugees for the year October 1, 1987 - September 30, 1988.

The funds available under the CR are not sufficient to enable ORR to continue to fund States for assistance to refugees during their first 31 months in the United States for the duration of FFY 1988. Based on estimates of State costs for FFY 1988, ORR has concluded that the available funds will be sufficient to cover only the first 24 months of costs for the remainder of the fiscal year (February 1 - September 30, 1988).

Therefore, effective February 1, 1988, ORR will reimburse States participating in the refugee program for the first 24 months that a refugee is in the United States.

Effective as of that date, California may claim against its grant only those allowable costs incurred during the 24-month period beginning with the first month a refugee entered the United States. This modification affects ORR funding for refugees who are receiving assistance under the following programs: Medicaid, SSI, AFDC, and foster care maintenance, payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and General Assistance (including GA medical assistance).

The duration of refugee cash assistance (RCA) and refugee medical assistance (RMA) funding was not changed from the current 18 months.

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This change will not affect data stored on MEDS, although it will affect data maintained in the Refugee Tracking System. Eligibility Branch, Systems Unit, staff will be working to alleviate any problems this change may cause to system tracking and reporting requirements.

If you have further questions, please contact John Richmond at (916) 445-1912.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: January 30, 1989